

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02050 051506Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 FMC-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SIL-01 LAB-04 /098 W

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R 051301Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8874

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 2050

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ECON, EWWT, LE

SUBJ: BEIRUT PORT--RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITY

1. BEIRUT PORT ACTIVITY RESUMED IN EARLY FEBRUARY, FOLLOWING THE CIVIL STRIFE, BUT IT WAS ONLY TOWARD THE END OF THE MONTH THAT THERE WAS SUBSTANTIAL ACTIVITY. THUS BY FEBRUARY 20, ABOUT 5,000 TONS OF GOODS WERE REMOVED FROM THE PORT AREA A DAY, AS AGAINST ABOUT 9,000 TONS BEFORE HOSTILITIES STARTED. WITH OVER 1,000 WORKERS HAVING RETURNED THE LABOR SUPPLY WAS ADEQUATE.

2. FOLLOWING AN APPEAL BY THE MERCHANT'S ASSOCIATION TO THE GOVT, A SURCHARGE ON PORT STORAGE FEES, PUT INTO EFFECT A YEAR AGO TO REDUCE OVERCROWDED FACILITIES, WAS REMOVD, EFFEC-TIVE RETROACTIVELY.

3. OF THE 285,000 SQUARE METERS OF COVERED PORT WAREHOUS-ING, IT S ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 8 PERCENT WAS DESTROYED. ALSO DESTROYED WAS ABOUT 1 PERCENT OF THE 423,000 SQUARE METERS UNCOVERED SPACE. OVER 200 PIECES OF PORT MACHINERY AND
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02050 051506Z

EQUIPMENT WERE DAMAGED AND ARE BEING EITHER REPLACED OR REPAIRED.

4. REGARDING PORT TRAFFIC, 34 VESSELS WERE ANCHORED IN THE HARBOR AS OF MARCH 3, AND 150 WERE REPORTEDLY ON THE WAY. (TWO LARGE SHIPPING COMPANIES ARE EXPECTED TO BRING TOURISTS TO LEBANON IN APRIL.)

5. A CHAMGER OF CMMERCE MISSION TO THE VARIOUS PORTS IN THE REGION WHERE GOODS DESTINED FOR BEIRUT WERE UNLOADED HAS BEEN QUITE SUCESSFUL IN PREVENTING THE AUCTIONING OF THESE GOODS AND IN GETTING STORAGE CHARGES EITHER ELIMINATED OR REDUCED.

6. ABOVE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM PORT DIRECTOR TAWELI AND PORT CAPTAIN BUDDOURA.
LAMBRAKIS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT02050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760085-0621
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760392/aaaaddcv.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT PORT--RESUMPTION OF ACTIVITY
TAGS: ECON, EWWT, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006